

The

March 2024

BULLY TIN

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Next Muster: 8th March 2024 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,
Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Colin Tyler 0477 520 772 sircolly39@gmail.com
Reading from the Classics:- Lorraine Broun
16 line poem: The Wheels Go Around

Farewell to Chris

We've lost a poet and a friend.
For him we shed our tears.
A lonely soul, he sought his peace,
but none could share his fears.

His poems told of darker days
that we were blind to see.
He had the gift, but paid the price,
Sad verse his legacy.

He painted pictures with his verse.
He was their brush defined,
but torn, like 'Swampy,' for his art.
What torment filled his mind?

The poets curse, that restless urge,
pursued him to the end.
Until at last, he found his peace.
Rest now my lonely friend.

Peter O'Shaughnessy

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President's Ramblings March 2024



Boyup Brook is done and dusted for another year with Bush Poets maintaining their status as a significant part of the festival. We had seventeen poets reciting on Sunday morning and the quality and variety of performances was outstanding. Gary Fogarty was popular with both performances and the workshop. Gary was very well received at the schools with his presentation on writing poetry and getting the rhyme and rhythm right. This is often difficult to get across to adults, let alone primary school students. I am looking forward to visiting the two classes time did not allow us to be present at this week. Thanks to all the poets and friends who came down to Boyup Brook and contributed to a great poetic weekend as well as a real social highlight on our calendar.

Congratulations to our WA writers in the recent Blackened Billy competition held in conjunction with the Banjo Paterson Festival in Orange. Peter O'Shaughnessy was runner up with his poem "A Gallipoli Rosary". He also received a Commended for "Young Wal From Wongawol" while Terry Piggott was awarded a Highly Commended for "The Mystery of the Granites". The Blackened Billy has been running for since 1991 and is one of the most hotly contested competitions for written poetry.

I will be MC for the May muster and intend to make the first half a tribute to Chris Taylor. We have some poets who recite Chris's poems but I will be asking others to read some of the many works of this wonderful poet who unfortunately lost his battle with depression recently. Chris won many awards for his writing including a Kembla Flame and runner up in the Silver Quill. His daughter Casey is compiling his poetry into a book and has already sent me some of his latest poems. Please contact me if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the book when it becomes available. Chris's son Daniel lives in Bunbury and is planning to be at the muster, and to read a poem he has written for his father. If you have a favourite poem you would like to present on the night give me a call.

Coming festivals that are including Bush Posts Breakfasts are Downunder Country Music (15 – 17 March) put on by Campfire Country, David and Therese Higginson. Stinger is the contact for this event, also for Fairbridge Folk Festival in Pinjarra on 5 - 7 April. Alan Aitken is running the Bush Poets Breakfasts at Nannup Folk Festival on the coming long weekend 2 – 3 March.

Our March muster has been deferred to the second Friday of the month to avoid the long weekend.

Bill Gordon - President.

G'day folks.

Easter Sunday from about 10am to about 1pm, if you can make it to Cobber's Corner (28 Gibbs Street Dinninup), we'll be having another "Bang-tail Muster". This is a gathering of anyone who cares to come along. Those who have a poem to recite, song to sing or music to play, put your name on the list & be one of the entertainers.

Either way, just bring a chair, your lunch, & enjoy the Bang-tail Muster.

The billy will be boiling.

You may wish to camp over on the Saturday night, the Sunday night, or both. If so, bring swag, tent, or whatever you need. We have room to drive in & park. We have water tanks, a shed & a composting toilet. No electricity.

Please pass the word around. All welcome. This will be (I think) our 6th Bang-tail Muster at Cobber's Corner. Good fun and good entertainment. If any queries, give me a call.

Best wishes,

Keith "Cobber" Lethbridge 0437 336 296

BOYUP BROOK COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

Another very successful poet's gathering at the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival

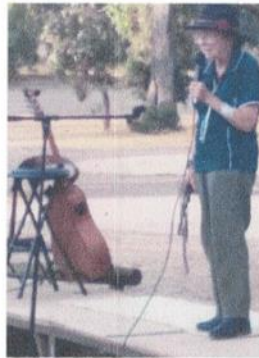


Left. Meet and Greet at Northlands

New event at the **Boyup Brook pub**

Far right. Rob Gunn Centre. Roger Cracknell

Right. Peter Rudolf



New event at **Boyup Brook Golf Club**

Left. Visiting guest poet from Queensland, **Gary Fogarty**

Above. Heather Denholm

Right. Daniel Avery

Poets at Balladeers Showcase
(L to r) MC Bill Gordon, Cobber Lethbridge, Gary Fogarty (Qld)



Balladeers Showcase Boyup Brook Town Hall organised by Terry Bennetts included the Lansdell family, Diane Lindsay and Peter Foster.



BOYUP BROOK COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024



Female Poets stole the show at Boyup Brook Bowling Club breakfast (l to r) Lesley Horne, Irene Conner, Christine Boulton, Bev Shorland

And the winner of the Poet's Brawl, Heather Joass below



Visiting poet **Gary Fogarty** and WA President **Bill Gordon** were invited to conduct workshops in both schools at Boyup Brook.

The morning session was at **St Mary's Catholic School** and the afternoon at the **State School**. Gary had his latest children's book 'I Wish I Was A Farmer' on display. Bill worked with the children acting out 'The Bush Christening'.



It was perfect weather for the final day of performances at **BUSH POET'S BREAKFAST** on Sunday morning of Boyup Brook Country Music Festival. Far left **Gary Fogarty from Qld.**

(above back row) Alan Aitken, Greg Joass, Stinger Nettleton, Lesley Horne, Daniel Avery, Bill Gordon, Irene Conner, Peter Rudolf, Gary Fogarty. (front row) Roger Cracknell, John Hayes, Julian Ilich, Heather Denholm, Bev Shorland, Rob Gunn, Cobber Lethbridge, Christine Boulton. (above right) Heather Denholm and John Hayes.



Winding down at Northlands and jamming with Warwick Trant

Downtown Boyup Brook. Bill and Meg Gordon, Terry and Virginia Bennetts, Peter Simpson and Diane Lindsay

Poetry is Alive and Well in WA by Christine Boulton

The WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners are still a solid presence at the many Country Music Festivals in WA. This year they will also be included in the Poets' Breakfast at the resurrected Fairbridge Festival and the Nannup Music Festival.

2024 began with the annual Wireless Hill Australia Day Picnic. This was well attended with around three hundred in the moving crowd.

Our next event was the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival. This followed a different format to previous festivals. "Poetry in the Pub" was the first event.

John Matthews, a banjo/guitar singer songwriter (who plays bluegrass and folk) has bought the Boyup Brook Pub. He has a music session on alternate Thursdays but is generally happy to leave the bar and nip over for a few tunes. The town has applauded his energy and welcomes the reopening of their Hotel. John also supports the Bush Poets.

Thursday evening was another new addition. "Poetry Under the Stars" at the Golf Club. Both events had a good crowd.

Friday included a workshop by guest poet, Gary Fogarty. (Thanks to Julian Ilich for his notes) This was a real highlight for me.

Like folk music there is a tier of performers. Some who wish to make a living at their craft and others who just like performing. Gary likened this progression to a ladder, you can get off at the platform that suits you or you can just keep going up, or down. This is, of course, dependent on your ability and your audience.

Here was a lesson for us all. Create your audience and promote events. It isn't enough to just expect the opportunities to be there, be proactive. A small soiree might mean that new people are switched on to bush poetry and will then attend a larger event. Do you write for commercial purposes? Birthday poems....

CDs? With changes in technology how do poets market their wares? Gary discussed books and pricing, how many to print, target buyers....Again his message was one of being proactive. Write a press release and send it out to the local papers/radio stations. This is relevant for shows, winning a competition, new books...Do you apply for a grant to produce your CD or print your book?

Performances: Start with a couple of poems and create brackets, then increase your number of poems/ brackets available. Be aware of time...stick to your allotted time. Think about your material, is it PG? Think of your audience.

Costing: When quoting provide a breakdown of costs. Performance, travel (remember the Ks for the tax office), accommodation, sound system hire...Have a contingency that if you are sick you can have another performer cover for you.

This is a very brief summary of Gary's ideas. I found them thought provoking and relevant for any performing artist. This workshop generated a lively discourse throughout the rest of the festival. It also raised many ideas that had not been verbalised in our larger community. Thank you Gary.

Saturday morning saw us at the tennis club with Heather Joass winning the Poets' brawl.

For the rest of the festival the 40plus degree heat contributed to overall numbers being down. An exception was for Troy Cassar Daly, at the music park. Attendance swelled to 1800. Organisers breathed a sigh of relief.

We had seventeen poets at the Sunday breakfast and a broad range of poetry was presented. Contemporary, the classics, poems about growing up in the bush and Daniel who writes about his cerebral palsy. We had three new poets in our fold and they were welcomed.

The WA Bush Poets have a mainly aging demographic so we are pleased to have some younger poets taking to the stage (thank you Daniel and Julian).

Next up is our monthly muster and then off to the Nannup Festival and the Bridgetown Country Music Muster. We are blessed to be welcome at these events.

For any people travelling in the West we have musters in Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Perth. Please check out the WA Bush Poetry and Yarnspinners website, we will make you welcome.



Boyup Brook 2024 Bush Poets Breakfast - (above back row) Alan Aitken, Greg Joass, Stinger Nettleton, Lesley Horne, Daniel Avery, Bill Gordon, Irene Conner, Peter Rudolf, Gary Fogarty. (front row) Roger Cracknell John Hayes, Julian Ilich, Heather Denholm, Bev Shorland, Rob Gunn, Cobber Lethbridge, Christine Bolt.

AN ESSENTIAL UPGRADE

As time goes by some things don't work as in the days of yore.
Equipment doesn't function quite as well as once before.
The water pump begins, but then it cannot fill the tank.
The old farm ute roars down the hill, but can't climb up the bank.
As in the shed, the marriage bed can suffer from these woes.
Some delicate encouragement is needed in the throes.
"Now try these blue pills, Dear" I said "they may just prove a help."
Despite my careful wording I received an angry yelp.
"I'm telling you that yesterday it started up just fine."
"That may be so, but finishing is where I draw the line!"

Heather Joass

16/02/2024

(Winning entry in Boyup Brook poet's brawl. Line: I'm telling you that yesterday it started up just fine.)

WALKABOUT

When the buffel grass is growing and the mighty Ord is flowing
And the magpie geese come drifting in across the black-soil plain,
Then I get the urge to wander through the hills and over yonder
With my tucker-bag and blanket, going walkabout again.

Can't afford a picnic hamper, just some flour to make a damper,
Sultanas for the Johnny-cake and brisket, salted down,
Spuds and onions I'll be getting, plus a little mozzie netting,
Bit of canvas for the weather and a rope in case I drown.

Then it's off one early morning while the cockies screech their warning,
Through the paddocks, over fences 'til I'm off the beaten track.
Not a job to get me sweating, not a care to have me sweating,
Just the grass around my ankles and the sun upon my back.

There's a donkey in the clearing and he must be hard of hearing
'Cause I'm nearly up upon him and he hasn't raised his head,
And the cattle see no danger in the quiet-treading stranger,
But a wallaby gets startled from its shady gully bed.

Now my steps are getting slower as the sun starts setting lower,
Better grab myself an acre where I won't disturb the crowd.
As the brisket's softly stewing and the billy tea starts brewing
I can argue with a boab tree or chat a passing cloud.

It looks a bit like raining but it's little use complaining,
I can duck beneath the canvas if she really starts to pour.
I'll be dry enough on Sunday, then it's back to work on Monday,
And you wouldn't hear me grumble if it rained forever more.

* * *

Now it's sixty years thereafter, years of labour, love and laughter,
And I'm heading up the Kimberley to sing one last refrain.
In the interest of surviving, I'll be fully stocked ... and driving,
But it's grand to be alive and ... going walkabout again!

Kieth 'Cobber' Lethbridge



An Avid Aussie quilter

I'm an avid Aussie quilter now I'll tell you what I mean
I like quilting it's a passion that so wonderful you'll see
I get up in the morning and commence to quilt at dawn
Then you'll see me close to midnight still sewing up a storm

Do I stop to eat ? Well sometimes, when by my husband made!
I can cut out with the best of them, with ruler an' roller blade
There are scissors in a holder, all left handed yes it's true
But ! my blades are now titanium! oh my what they cut through !

I cut fabric into pieces, then I sew it right back up!
For patterns large and small there is never time enough,
I've made quilts for tiny babies, snug rugs for kith 'n kin,
Table covers , chairs I've covered, bed quilts up to my king

You might say I am addicted And maybe that is true
But I could stop at anytime! that's what the addicts do.
I think that I am kidding so perhaps the truth to meet
For If something happens to my hands, then I will use my feet!

For I search fabric on the internet , create patterns in my head,
Then wonder why it's hard to sleep when I get into bed.
I've a fabric stash that's hard to beat for it will out live me.
With a box of every colour and two for blue you see.

I'm an avid Aussie quilter of the title I am proud
For I've quilted all Australia and the water all around
I've quilted up each state in the colour of its own
Australia looked so lovely gold, red, blue, green and brown

An avid Aussie quilter I do intend to stay,
For I quilted up Australia in my own special way,

I'm an avid Aussie quilter till the day I pass away,
Now I must get back to quilting so hooroo , g' luck, g'day.

Heather Denholm



Bush Poets Muster Writeup Friday February 2024

President Bill Gordon welcomed everyone to the Muster then introduced Julian Illich as MC for the night.

To Celebrate Banjo Patterson's birthday on the 17th of February Julian began the evening by giving a brief history of Patterson's life, with small bites of his life between each poet as they came up to recite.

Julian Illich El Mahdi to the Australian Troops Banjo Patterson
The question is asked , where have you come from ? why are you here to fight this fight?

Heather Denholm The Man From Snowy River Banjo Patterson
A Riveting telling of this wonderful poem. Very well done Heather.

Rob Gunn The Kitchen Maid A parody of
The Man From Snowy River
The kitchen maid is pregnant who is the culprit ? An entertaining story.

Christine Boulton The Bush Christening Banjo Patterson

Daniel Avery Australia Pam Ashdown
So Proud of this land Australia, it is important to teach our kids how special it is to be Australian.

Meg Gordon Old Man Platypus from Banjo Patterson's
'The Animals Noah Forgot'

John Hayes One Hundred and Three Henry Lawson
Henry Lawson is in Darlinghurst Prison because he failed to pay his family maintenance. On the 2nd of January 1908 he wrote to Mr Walker that he was expecting a cheque from England, which fails to arrive so is in arrears 8 pounds 15 shillings. He asks his landlady to call on Mr. Walker to explain the situation, He signs the letter - Yours in trouble Henry Lawson.
While he is serving time he writes the poem 'One Hundred and Three' explaining the terrible conditions within the walls of Darlinghurst which he calls 'Starvinghurst' Prison.

Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge A tune on the mouth organ and Bones
The Indian Pacific", written by Joy McKean.

Clancy of the Overflow Banjo Patterson
Banjo Paterson's popular poem, where the writer dreams of trading places and occupations with Clancy, who has gone to Queensland, droving. Would Clancy take up the offer? Not likely

Don't Take Your Rhymes To Town
This is a parody of Johnny Cash's song: "Don't Take Your Guns to Town". A cautionary tale for young bush poets. Take care! This could happen to you!

Bill Gordon Saltbush Bill (Attempt 1 Failed) Banjo Patterson
The Man from Ironbark Banjo Patterson
Bill a rough bushman decides to have a shave at a fancy barber shop while visiting Sydney town. The Barber fond of practical jokes, discovers that his intended joke doesn't go down that well with Salt bush Bill.

Supper: Yum, Thank you again Lorraine for your delicious fruit and bran loaf .

Heather Denholm An Avid Aussie Quilter Heather Denholm
Heathers passion is quilting, and she has made hundreds, has everything she needs, cutters, sewing machines and a stash of fabric to challenge spotlight.

John Hayes Who gives the Bride Away? Bob Magor
"give" the Bride away: struth this wedding has cost a bleeding fortune!

Bev. Shorland The Warrumbungle Mare Charles Shaw
The story of a beautiful wild horse that freely roamed the mountains, and the lads that tried to capture her.

Rob Gunn The Aussie Bush Mechanic Keith Lethbridge
Rob set this poem to Music. A rough and ready bloke, you'll find him in the pub, but no matter what he will get you back on the road.

Christine Boulton Mulga Bill's Bicycle Banjo Patterson
A delightful humorous poem about an over confident chap who believed he could ride anything. and everything... that is until he tried riding a bicycle.

Daniel Avery My Wobbly Mates Daniel Avery
Four friends, all with some disability, sitting round a camp fire teasing each other and having fun. A Wobbly a Wheelie ,a Blinky and another ; Daniels motley crew that party really well together.

Meg Gordon Clancy of the overload Cheryl from Orange
A Parody, About a wife's letter to her husband full of instructions about doing the washing and house work, while she is away having a baby.

Keith Cobber Lethbridge
A Tune on the mouth organ "Danny Boy" (Londonderry Air). (For Daniel)

WALKABOUT

Cobber worked as a farm-hand at the Kimberley Research Station from early 1963 to mid-1967. This gave him the opportunity to wander off on weekends, along the banks of the Ord River, across the Cockatoo Sands or through the mighty East Kimberley hills.

This poem was first written in 1964, with the final verse being recently added.

Deb McQuire A poem about the approaching storm and the preparations.

Bev. Shorland Mulga Jill's Windsurfer
A Parody about a lady who thought she could sail this new fangled thing.

Bill Gordon Saltbush Bill (attempt 2, success!) Banjo Patterson
A man will do almost anything to see that his starving sheep will get some good pasture before they are moved on; including losing a fight.

Closing the evening Bill reminded everyone that the Boyup Brook Country Music (and poetry) Festival is on 15th - 18th March. Thanks to Julian for his first time as MC

The next Muster will be on 8th March not 1st March as that is the long weekend.
Muster closed at 9.30.

***Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night or send one via email to shorland@inet.net.au for the Muster write up.
Thanks in advance Bev***

**Next Muster: 5th April 2024 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,
Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Heather Denholm 0429 052 900
Reading from the classics: Christine Boulton
First half at April Muster - Anzac or similar poems, the second half humorous any subject
*Submissions for April Bully Tin due in by 25th March 2024***

COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS AROUND AUSTRALIA

WRITTEN EVENTS are in PURPLE

For more details and entry forms please go to the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au and www.writingwa.org

Why not check out Writing WA
<info@writingwa.org>
Always something interesting
going on for WA Writers

MARCH 2024

2 March — Milton Agricultural Show, Poets' Breakfast, Junior and Open performance competitions (*closing date extended to day of competition*), Milton, NSW

15 March — Closing Date — Oracles of the Bush Festival, Tenterfield NSW.

APRIL 2024

4-7 April — Oracles of the Bush Festival, performance and **written** competitions, Tenterfield NSW. See 15 March closing date.

5-6 April — Kilkivan Great Horse Ride poetry competition, Kilkivan, Queensland.

11-14 April — Man from Snowy River Bush Festival (incorporating the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships). Performance and **written** competitions, Corryong, Victoria. See 29 February closing date.

21 April — Closing Date — Boondooma Homestead Performance Poetry Competition, Boondooma, Queensland.

26 April — Boondooma Homestead Performance Poetry Competition: novice, intermediate, open, Boondooma, Queensland. See 21 April closing date.

30 April — Closing Date — Bronze Swagman Award, Winton, Queensland.

MAY 2024

10 May — Closing Date — Laura Literary Awards, Laura, SA.

15 May — Closing Date — Eastwood/Hills FAW Literary Competitions, Sydney, NSW.

JUNE 2024

30 June — Early bird Deadline — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Guyra NSW.

SEPTEMBER 2024

30 September — Regular Deadline — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Guyra NSW.

NOVEMBER 2024

12 November — Late Entries Deadline — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Guyra NSW.

16-18 November — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Best Australian Poetry Film, Bush Poetry Film, Student Poetry Film, Guyra NSW. See 30 June Early bird Deadline, 30 September Regular Deadline, 12 November Late Entries Deadline.



Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2024

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Regular Events

WA Bush Poets: 1st Friday each month *MC details see front page*
- 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA

Bunbury Bush Poets: 1st Monday every 'even' month
- The Parade Hotel, Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243
1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury. or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636

Goldfields Bush Poetry Group: 1st Wednesday each month. Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376
- 7.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club,
108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie

If you would like to be part of a forum—post your poetry, see what other contemporary bush poets are writing, keep up to date with poetry events throughout Australia—visit www.abpa.org.au or www.bushverse.com

Address correspondence for the "Bully Tin" to: Bully Tin Editor, PO Box 364, Bentley 6982 or deb.mcquire@bigpond.com
Address correspondence for the Secretary to: WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assoc, PO Box 364 Bentley 6982
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Bank Transfer: Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 A/C#158764837
Please notify treasurer of payment : treasurer@wabushpoets.asn.au

Members—Do you have poetic products for sale? If so please let the editor know so you can be added to this list
Members can contact the poets via the Assn. Secretary or visit website - Go to the "Performance Poets" page
Don't forget our website www.wabushpoets.asn.au
Please contact the Webmaster, if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.